

# Financial Aid News

## WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

### Online resources for aid administrators

- [Higher Education Coordinating Board Web site](#)
- [HECB secure Web site for aid administrators](#)
- [State Need Grant](#)
- [State Work Study](#)
- [Washington Promise Scholarship](#)
- [Educational Opportunity Grant](#)
- [Washington Scholars Program](#)
- [WAVE](#)
- [Other state aid programs](#)
- [Past issues of the \*Financial Aid News\* and other publications](#)
- [Washington Financial Aid Association](#)
- [Washington State Association of Student Employment Administrators](#)
- [Western Association of Financial Aid Administrators](#)
- [Western Association of Student Employment Administrators](#)
- [National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators](#)



Higher Education  
Coordinating Board

[HECBFinancialAid@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:HECBFinancialAid@hecb.wa.gov)

<http://www.hecb.wa.gov>

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Issue 28 — May 23, 2003

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### The *Financial Aid News* wants to know what you think

If you haven't already taken our online survey, please take a few minutes to do so now. The survey will help us know whether the *Financial Aid News* is meeting your needs, and how we can make it better.

Just click on the hyperlink below. Your Internet browser will automatically direct you to the survey. It will take about three to five minutes to complete.

[Please click here to take the survey](#)

We look forward to reading your responses. If you have questions about the survey, contact John McLain at [johnmcl@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:johnmcl@hecb.wa.gov) or (360) 753-7833.

## U.S. Supreme Court will review Promise Scholarship lawsuit

The U.S. Supreme Court decided May 19 that it will review a lawsuit filed by Joshua Davey, the theology student who sued the state after his Washington Promise Scholarship was rescinded in 1999. The state asked the Court to intervene after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last July that Davey's free-exercise rights had been violated.

The Supreme Court will likely hear the case this fall and issue a ruling by June 2004.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board will continue to abide by the Circuit Court's ruling unless the U.S. Supreme Court decides otherwise. The earlier ruling requires that the Board not prohibit awards to students because they are pursuing degrees in theology. The Board issued guidance to colleges and universities about the Circuit Court's decision in February.

Visit the state [Attorney General's Web site](#) for background on the Davey case and the Supreme Court's decision to review it. Several news organizations also published reports about the Supreme Court's decision to hear the case. You can read some of those articles by clicking on the hyperlinks in the chart below. You can also read articles about the case in previous issues of the *Financial Aid News*.

### News reports about Supreme Court decision to hear Promise case

<i>The Chronicle of Higher Education</i> (subscribers only)	<a href="#">U.S. Supreme Court will consider whether states can ban aid to theology majors</a>
<i>The New York Times</i>	<a href="#">Court to decide if constitution may sometimes require taxpayer subsidies to religion</a>
<i>The Seattle Post-Intelligencer</i>	<a href="#">Case is about education, says man who fought state</a>
<i>The Seattle Times</i>	<a href="#">Supreme Court to hear state religious rights case</a> <a href="#">AP: Supreme Court to say when states can fund religious education</a>
Past articles in the <i>Financial Aid News</i>	<a href="#">Issue 6 - July 29, 2002</a> <a href="#">Issue 18 - February 14, 2003</a>

### Institutional agreements due at HECB June 3

Last week, Higher Education Coordinating Board staff sent annual state financial aid participation agreements to colleges and universities. The Board must receive signed agreements by June 3.

## Legislative update

### Lawmakers approach compromise on budget

The Legislature convened a special session on May 12 to complete their work on the state budget, and most lawmakers stayed home. That's because their leadership told them to.

Instead of bringing all of the members back to Olympia for the session, House and Senate leaders have declared a "rolling recess." The strategy allows them to convene a special session, but saves the taxpayers money by keeping most members at home until there is official business to be done.

Meanwhile a total of six negotiators — three from each chamber — have been meeting since early May to craft a state operating budget for 2003-05. Once the negotiators agree, the rest of the lawmakers will return to Olympia to take action on the budget and any remaining legislative issues.

Hill watchers report that the two sides have reached compromise on most of their differences. However, negotiators are still at an impasse over a contract for home health care workers. This morning's [\*Olympian\*](#) reported that at least one lawmaker thinks the dispute will drag budget negotiations into June.

Lawmakers have until June 10 if they hope to finish their work before the end of this special session. If they don't succeed, they may reconvene in another special session. By law, the legislature and the governor must agree on a spending plan before July 1.

### Now the bills become the laws

Gov. Gary Locke has signed into law all of the financial aid related bills passed during the regular legislative session that ended on April 27. The following page has a list of the new laws with financial aid implications.

### EOG program prepares to meet new legislative mandate

One of the bills signed by the governor is Senate Bill 5676, which expands eligibility for the Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG) program to qualified residents in all 39 counties. The measure also allows students to use the award at UW and WSU branch campuses. And it will allow some students with GEDs to qualify for the Promise Scholarship.

The Board will begin accepting EOG applications in late July from students in the newly authorized counties and for students at branch campuses. Staff have also begun discussing the rules changes that will be required for the program to respond to these legislative amendments. The Board will keep aid administrators posted about the implementation of this new law.

## Financial aid related bills signed into law by the governor

Bill number	Description
<b>Educational Opportunity Grant and Washington Promise Scholarship</b>	
ESB 5676	Changes elements of the Educational Opportunity Grant program; financially needy placebound residents from all of the state's 39 counties may be eligible; recipients could attend branch campuses; also allows recipients of GED certificates to be eligible for Promise scholarships if they meet other academic eligibility criteria
<b>Tuition refunds for aid recipients</b>	
HB 2113	Permits four-year public institutions to adopt tuition refund policies that reduce aid recipients' liability in required repayments of federal aid
<b>Other financial aid and tuition waiver proposals</b>	
SSB 5189	Exempts veterans of the Korean conflict (active duty from 1950-55) from tuition increases
ESHB 1277	Creates a supplemental grant program for State Need Grant eligible students with dependents; private sources will fund the program
<b>Tuition and residency</b>	
E2SSB 5135	Requires each state four-year institution and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to develop policies to ensure enrolled undergraduates complete degree and certificate programs in a timely manner. Institution-based policies must address, at a minimum, students who (a) accumulate more than 125 percent of the credits necessary to graduate; (b) drop more than 25 percent of their class load during a term; and (c) are on academic probation for longer than one term. State higher education institutions may assess a tuition surcharge for continued enrollment of such students as a matter of local policy
EHB 1079	Authorizes resident tuition for certain undocumented students residing in Washington; student must have attended at least three years of high school in the state
ESSB 5448	Extends institutional tuition-setting authority for all but resident undergraduates through 2008-09
<b>Higher Education Coordinating Board</b>	
ESHB 2076	Changes the Board's mandate for developing a state master plan for higher education; new guidelines require the Board to develop a "strategic" master plan every four years; a legislative work group will provide policy direction for the strategic plan; public colleges will develop plans that reflect state goals and strategies
<b>Other higher education proposals</b>	
SHB 2111	Provides for a legislative study of the feasibility of performance contracts between the state and institutions of higher education